

## CLAIM OR CLAIMS

1. A shim assembly for engaging a hinge having a vent bar, the vent bar including a first and a spaced apart second aperture, the shim assembly comprising:

(a) an elongate shim body having a first projecting tab sized to be received within the first aperture of the vent bar and a spaced apart projecting tab sized to be received within the second aperture of the vent bar.

2. The shim assembly of Claim 1, wherein the first projecting tab has a circular cross section and is sized to be slidably received within the first aperture.

3. The shim assembly of Claim 1, wherein the second projecting tab has a non circular cross section and is sized to be received within the second aperture.

4. The shim assembly of Claim 3, wherein the cross section of the second projecting tab is one of obround, oval and oblong.

5. The shim assembly of Claim 4, wherein the second aperture has a circular cross section.

6. The shim assembly of Claim 5, wherein the cross section of the second projecting tab is sized to be received in the circular cross section of the second aperture.

7. The shim assembly of Claim 2, wherein the first and the second aperture have a circular cross section and one of the first and the second projecting tabs forms an interference fit.

8. A shim for a hinge assembly having a given stack height and a vent bar having an aperture, the shim comprising:

- (a) an elongate one-piece shim body having a thickness; and
- (b) at least one projecting tab integrally formed with the shim body, the projecting tab sized to be at least partially received within the aperture to releasably connect the shim body to the vent bar.

9. The shim of Claim 8, further comprising a second projecting tab integrally formed with the shim body.

10. The shim of Claim 8, wherein the first projecting tab has a circular cross section and the second projecting tab has a non circular cross section.

11. The shim of Claim 8, wherein the projecting tab extends from a first side of the shim body and the shim body includes a recess at a corresponding location on a second side.

12. The shim of Claim 8, wherein the aperture in the vent bar has a circular cross section and is sized to receive a projecting tab having a non circular cross section.

13. A configurable hinge system for mounting between a window sash and a frame, comprising:

- (a) a hinge assembly having a first stack height and including a vent bar for securing to the window sash; and
- (b) a shim removably connected to the vent bar without requiring tools.

14. The configurable hinge system of Claim 13, wherein the shim includes a projecting tab and the vent bar includes a corresponding aperture, the tab and the aperture forming an interference fit.

15. The configurable hinge system of Claim 13, wherein the shim includes a projecting tab and the vent bar includes a corresponding aperture, the tab and the aperture are sized to permit non destructive separation.

16. A method of converting a hinge assembly of a first stack height to have a greater second stack height, the method comprising:

(a) engaging a projecting tab on a shim of a predetermined thickness, the projecting tab of a first cross section, to an aperture in the hinge assembly, the aperture having a different cross section, to provide the second stack height of the hinge assembly.

17. The method of Claim 16, further comprising connecting the shim to a vent bar.

18. The method of Claim 16, further comprising connecting the shim to a vent bar of a four-bar hinge assembly.

19. The method of Claim 17, further comprising engaging a non circular projecting tab on the shim with a circular aperture in the vent bar.